

the murmur of the sea. What nests we found there! Caves formed by the overhanging growth of the wild grape trees shutting out some of the glaring sunlight and bathing the delicious scene in a mellow shade.

Enough. As we watched the everlasting sparkle of the ocean, and regretted that we could not dwell for ever in such a home as this bower of wild grapes on the south shore of Bermuda, we understood why the mortality tables are upset by some of the happy people of these snunny islands.

INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL.

President Ramsay, and the governing council of the Insurance Institute of Montreal, in Conservatory Hall, on the 1st inst., entertained a party of personal friends and over 100 members at a smoking concert, which marked the opening of that organization, which was established May 18, 1900. The hall was elaborately decorated for the occasion. President Ramsay occupied the chair, and with him on the platform were Messrs. Hon. Albert W. Atwater, W. J. White, J. F. Junker, Toronto, E. H. Bisset, Breckville; G. F. C. Smith, first vice-president; E. L. Bond, second vice-president; David Burke, hon. treasurer, and B. Hal Brown, honorary secretary, and members of the council. President Ramsay's inaugural address was well received and the remarks of Mr. G. F. C. Smith, vice-president, were most timely. Several messages conveying good wishes were read, and the musical and literary entertainment proved to be excellent. Altogether the first gathering of the Insurance Institute of Montreal was a distinct success.

RECENT FIRES.

McLaren's Planing Mill, Montreal.

In the fire which occurred on the 6th instant, the following companies are interested:

On Mill Machinery.

Liverpool & London & Globe.. . . .	\$5,194.35
Western.. . . .	5,194.35
Guardian.. . . .	5,194.35
North British & Mercantile.. . . .	5,194.35
Imperial.. . . .	5,194.35
Lancashire.. . . .	5,194.35
Royal.. . . .	5,194.35
	\$36,360.45

(Loss about 90 per cent.)

On Lumber in Mill and Kiln.

Royal.. . . .	\$3,323.00
Queen.. . . .	1,458.00
Lancashire.. . . .	2,917.65
	\$7,698.65

(Loss about \$4,000.)

On Lumber in Shed.

Lancashire.. . . .	\$2,000.00
(Total loss.)	

On Lumber in Yard.

Liverpool & London & Globe.. . . .	\$15,000
Imperial.. . . .	15,000
Atlas.. . . .	10,000
Queen.. . . .	6,000
Royal.. . . .	1,000
Union.. . . .	5,000
Sun.. . . .	5,000
	\$47,000

(Loss about \$3,000.)

WELLAND VALE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

In the fire which occurred at the mills of the Welland Vale Manufacturing Co., Ltd., St. Catharines, Ont., on the 6th inst., the following companies are interested:

Sun	\$4,800
Lancashire	4,800
British America.	4,800
Atlas	4,800
Commercial Union.....	2,400
London Assurance	2,400
Phoenix of Hartford.....	2,000
	\$26,000

Loss nearly total.

WANTS HOME OFFICE STATEMENTS.

Superintendent Francis Hendricks of the New York Insurance Department has notified the United States managers of foreign insurance companies that hereafter he will require home office statements as of January 1 each year on the New York blank, and that on December 10 blanks will be forwarded for the purpose. This will be in addition to the annual capital statements of the United States branches. The home offices are allowed until May 1 to hand in the statement. Prior to 1882 the New York Insurance Department, required home office figures but since that time has not asked for them. Other States now asking for them are Delaware, Colorado, Kentucky, Iowa, Ohio, Maryland, Texas, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Nebraska. The N. Y. Commercial Bulletin remarks that 'if New York State insists on the statement being furnished on its regular standard it may be somewhat embarrassing for two or three companies which calculate their reserves on a much lighter basis.'